

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
September 27, 2015

MINUTES

I. The September 27, 2015 meeting of the Frederick County Human Relations Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in room 126 at 5370 Public Safety Place, Frederick, Maryland by Chair Angela Spencer.

II. The following members were present at the meeting: Angela Spencer, Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Mari Lee, Annette Breiling, Lisa Clark, Irene Packer-Halsey, Francisco Alves, Kavonte' Duckett and Felicia Turner

The following members were absent: Gene Stanton, Georgia McCauley

The following liaison members were present: Kathleen Hartsock, Donna Kuzemchak

Guests present were: Lt. Tokarz, Chief Hargis and Azhar Haq

III. Meeting Minutes approval

Upon a motion by Annette Breiling and a second by Lisa Clark with unanimous membership vote, the August minutes were approved with one change.

IV. Comments from the Public

Lt. Tokarz reported that he called around the state and got numbers on applicants and how many were able to continue through the process. In Baltimore County 14% of people who started the process continued on. In Howard County it was 8 or 9%

Lt. Tokarz said that the Police Department circulated a question to all its officers. They were asked to give their opinion about why Frederick did not have the same problems as Baltimore. Lt Tokarz read the following responses: "We are very proactive and make sure each community has a voice. When community members feel like they are not being heard they seek out a way to express themselves so they work with protesters. Their low crime rate means most interactions are positive. Officers are engaged in each community they acknowledge input from the public and that breaks down barriers. Proper training also plays a factor."

Chief Hargis reported that he is working on a Crime Prevention Summit and will be reaching out to the HRC.

V. Officers' Reports

Executive Committee

Angela stated that we have been extremely connected to the community this month. We supported and participated in the Eliminating the Achievement Gap event, the Festival of India, the Latino Festival, In the Street (shortened due to rain), and a Housing presentation at Lucas Village. A few members of the HRC attended the racism training at Mt. St. Mary's and said it was so good they would like to invite them to come to us. Mari Lee, Irene and Francisco reported on the training and what they gained.

There were several requests for donation support from the commission.

1. A motion was made to support the Delta Event for a full page ad by David with a second by Lisa the vote was unanimous.
2. A motion was made to support the Asian American Center 10th year anniversary with a half page ad by Kavonte' and a second by David and the vote was unanimous.
3. A motion was made to fund a scholarship for the Friends Meeting School Student Peace Awards by Tonya and a Second by Mari Lee; the vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

Mari Lee reported that there is \$4,381.95 available to the HRC.

VI. Committee Reports

Community Relations Committee

The Naturalization Ceremony will be held on the 1st floor of Winchester Hall on October 17. The CRC members should arrive at 10:15 and the rest of the committee should arrive at 10:30. Dress up and wear your badge. Lisa will send out a list of duties to all of the members before the end of the week.

Government Relations Committee

Mari Lee and Pat met with Chris at the county to discuss creating an HRC video. We need a new group photo and a voice-over person. The GRC met by phone about the Legislative Lunch 11:30 – 1.

Mari Lee is working on the people's data base using the information being gathered at events.

Internal Relations Committee

IRC met and is moving forward with the Jr. HRC. Due to staffing change we still need to meet with the Boys and Girls Club Director. We should be up and running by the end of the year. David Kaye has been reaching out to the Housing Community with fair housing seminars. Tonya thanked Irene for her support and ideas for the Jr. HRC.

VII. New Business

Miles reported that we have at least one applicant for the HRC Board.

On October 10 there is a group that will be having a cross burning and there will also be a peace procession while that is happening. Mari Lee will send out information about the Peace Procession.

There was a bullying incident at Frederick High School this past week; there is not much information at this time.

VIII. HRD Director's Report

Miles thanked everyone for their support during his health situation.

Next Tuesday there will be a Domestic Violence Proclamation at the City Hall. He hopes everyone will attend.

Angela will be receiving an award from the State of Maryland for Instructor of the Year.

Azhar Haq from Youth for Human Rights gave a presentation about Youth for Human Rights. It is based on the 30 articles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They are introducing the programs in some schools and have noticed that the incidence of bullying has gone down.

He passed out information and had suggestions on how we could collaborate with the organization.

Sylvia was also in attendance and talked more about the curriculum and also about Human Trafficking.

IX. Upcoming Events

See attached list

X. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.

Minutes were submitted by the Human Relations Department